SOME PRINCIPLES and PRECEPTS OF THE Chriſtian Religion EXPLAINED, By way of Queſtion and Anſwer, For the Uſe of CHILDREN.

By J. KENDALL.

"Train up a Child in the Way he ſhould go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. xxii. 6.

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AS this treatiſe is intended for the uſe of children, endeavours have been uſed to bring it into a ſmall compaſs, by chuſing ſuch teſtimonies of holy ſcripture as are ſuitable to their capacities: and thoſe who are deſirous of being further informed of the principles of truth, are referred to the Catechiſm and Apology of Robert Barclay.

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SOME PRINCIPLES and PRECEPTS OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

Q. *WHO made thee?*

A. God made me, the world, and all things therein; and is Lord of heaven and earth.

Q. *What do the ſcriptures teach us concerning God the Father Almighty?*

A. That there is but one God, who is an eternal ſpirit, and muſt be worſhipped in ſpi-

rit and in truth; that he is Almighty, the Creator, and ſupreme Governour, of heaven and earth, and all things therein, and upholds them all by the word of his power; is every where preſent, and knows the ſecrets of all men; of infinite juſtice, wiſdom, holineſs, and goodneſs.

Q. *What is the worſhip that is acceptable to God?*

A. "The hour cometh, and "now is, when the true wor- "ſhippers ſhall worſhip the "Father in ſpirit and in truth, "for the Father ſeeketh ſuch "to worſhip him. God is a "ſpirit, and they that worſhip "him, muſt worſhip him in "ſpirit

" ſpirit and in truth." John iv. 23, 24.

Q. *Is it not the chiefeſt good to know God?*

A. Yes: " This is life eter-
" nal, to know thee the only
" true God, and Jeſus Chriſt
" whom thou haſt ſent."

Q. *What do the holy evangeliſts teach concerning Jeſus Chriſt our Lord?*

A. That he, the Eternal Word, took our nature upon him, and was like us in all things, ſin excepted; that he was conceived by the Holy Ghoſt, born of the Virgin Mary; preached many heavenly doctrines, which he confirmed by many miracles; ſuffered

death under the Roman governour Pontius Pilate, at the inſtigation of the Jews.

Being crucified, dead and buried, he roſe again on the third day, and aſcended into heaven, where he ſits at the right hand of God.

Q. *How may we reap the benefit of Chriſt's death and ſufferings?*

A. By faith and obedience: for "we are ſaved by grace, "through faith, and that not "of ourſelves, it is the gift of "God.

"He became the Author of "eternal ſalvation unto all "them that obey him."

Q. *Which is the true faith?*

A. That

A. That which works by love, purifies the heart, and gives victory over ſin, which ſeparates from God.

By which faith we have acceſs to God, and without which it is impoſſible to pleaſe God.

Q. *Muſt obedience always accompany true faith?*

A. Yes; for "Faith without works is dead.

"And they who have believed in God muſt be careful to maintain good works."

Q. *Then are good works and holineſs always neceſſary?*

A. Yes; for God hath commanded them. And "without holineſs no man ſhall ſee "the Lord.

" The unrighteous ſhall not
" inherit the kingdom of God;
" for he will render to every
" man according to his works."

Q. *What is pure religion?*

A. " Pure religion and un-
" defiled is this, to viſit the
" fatherleſs and widows in their
" affliction, and to keep him-
" ſelf unſpotted from the
" world."

Q. *What are the ſpots of the world?*

A. " All that is in the
" world, the luſt of the fleſh,
" the luſt of the eye, and the
" pride of life, is not of the
" Father, but is of the world."

Q. *What doth the Lord require of man?*

A. " He

A. "He hath ſhewed thee, "O man, what is good: and "what doth the Lord require "of thee, but to do juſtly, love "mercy, and to walk humbly "with thy God?"

Q. *Is it poſſible to keep the commandments of God?*

A. Yes, doubtleſs, for our merciful Lord and Lawgiver would never command impoſſibilities.

At the ſame time he declares, "His yoke is eaſy, and his "burden light."

And his beloved diſciple aſſures us, "This is the love of "God, that we keep his com-"mandments; and his com-

" mandments are not griev-
" ous."

Q. *But are we able to believe in Chriſt, and to obey God's commands, of ourſelves, and of our own ſtrength?*

A. No; our ſtrength cometh from God alone, who has promiſed to give his Holy Spirit to them that aſk him; and, by his grace to ſanctify, aſſiſt, and comfort us, and enable to do whatſoever he requires of us.

The apoſtle ſaith to the believers, " I commend you to
" God, and to the word of his
" grace, which is able to build
" you up, and to give you an
" inheritance among all them
" which are ſanctified."

Q. *Is*

Q. *Is there any difference, in the goſpel diſpenſation, between the male and female?*

A. No; "For ye are all the "children of God by faith in "Chriſt Jeſus. For as many "of you as have been baptized "into Chriſt, have put on "Chriſt.

"There is neither bond nor "free, there is neither male "nor female; for ye are all "one in Chriſt Jeſus."

Q. *What is the firſt and great commandment of all?*

A. "Thou ſhalt love the "Lord thy God with all thy "heart, and with all thy ſoul, "and with all thy mind; this "is the firſt and great com-

" mandment; and the ſecond
" is like unto it, thou ſhalt
" love thy neighbour as thy-
" ſelf: on theſe two com-
" mandments hang all the law
" and the prophets."

Q. *Is not love the peculiar mark and token of a Chriſtian?*

A. Yes: " By this ſhall all
" men know that ye are my
" diſciples, if ye have love one
" to another.

" This is my commandment,
" that ye love one another, as
" I have loved you."

Q. *What general rule hath our Lord left, for our conduct towards others?*

A. " All things whatſoever
" ye would that men ſhould
" do

" do to you, do ye even ſo to
" them, for this is the law and
" the prophets."

Q. *How is an increaſe of God's Holy Spirit obtained, by which we are enabled to perform our duty?*

A. By prayer and ſupplication; " Aſk, and it ſhall be
" given; ſeek, and ye ſhall
" find.

" If ye then being evil know
" how to give good gifts unto
" your children, how much
" more ſhall your heavenly
" Father give the Holy Spirit
" to them that aſk him?"

Q. *What is prayer?*

A. It is the earneſt breathing of the ſoul to the Almighty,

whether expreſſed in words, or not.

Q. *How did our Lord teach his diſciples to pray?*

A. He gave them a moſt excellent pattern.

" After this manner there-
" fore pray ye.

" Our Father which art in
" heaven; hallowed be thy
" name; thy kingdom come;
" thy will be done in earth,
" as it is in heaven; give us
" this day our daily bread, and
" forgive us our treſpaſſes, as
" we forgive them that treſ-
" paſs againſt us. And lead
" us not into temptation, but
" deliver us from evil; for
" thine is the kingdom, and
" the

" the power, and the glory,
" for ever. Amen."

Q. *Is it neceſſary for us often to pray?*

A. Yea. And Chriſt " ſpake
" a parable unto them to this
" end, that we ought always
" to pray, and not to faint.
" Watch and pray, that ye
" enter not into temptation."

Q. *Whoſe prayers doth God hear and anſwer?*

A. " The ſacrifice of the
" wicked is an abomination to
" the Lord; but the prayer of
" the upright is his delight."

Q. *Seeing ſin ſeparates the ſoul from God, what is the beſt preſervative againſt ſin?*

 A. The

A. The fearing of God, and his word abiding in my heart.

" How can I do this wicked-
" neſs, and ſin againſt God ?

" Thy word have I hid in
" my heart, that I might not
" ſin againſt thee."

Q. *Is pride a great ſin ?*

A. Yes. " Every one that
" is proud in heart is an abo-
" mination to the Lord."

Q. *What follows pride ?*

A. Deſtruction. " Pride
" goeth before deſtruction, and
" an haughty ſpirit before a
" fall.

" The lofty looks of man
" ſhall be humbled, and the
" haughtineſs of men ſhall be
" bowed down."

Q. *Are*

Q. *Are there any commands in the New Teſtament againſt the vain and coſtly faſhions of the times?*

A. Yes, many; of which take one from the apoſtle Paul: "In like manner alſo, that "women adorn themſelves in "modeſt apparel, with ſhame-"facedneſs and ſobriety; not "with broidered hair, or gold, "or pearls, or coſtly array, but "(which becometh women "profeſſing godlineſs) with "good works."

Q. *What does the apoſtle Peter adviſe to in this reſpect?*

A. "While they behold "your chaſte converſation cou-"pled with fear; whoſe adorn-

"ing

" ing, let it be not that out-
" ward adorning of plaiting
" the hair, and of wearing of
" gold, or of putting on of ap-
" parel, but let it be the hidden
" man of the heart, in that
" which is not corruptible,
" even the ornament of a meek
" and quiet ſpirit, which is in
" the ſight of God of great
" price."

Q. *Is it not the duty of young people to honour their parents and elders ?*

A. Yes ; the fifth command is, " Honour thy father and
" thy mother, that thy days
" may be long upon the land
" which the Lord thy God
" giveth thee.

" Thou

" Thou ſhalt riſe up before
" the hoary head, and honour
" the face of the old man.
" Let the elders that rule
" well be counted worthy of
" double honour."

Q. *Wherein doth true honour conſiſt?*

A. In obedience from the heart, not in falſe flattery from the lips, or geſtures from the body.

Q. *Muſt we not give honour to whom it is due?*

A. Yes; " Render therefore
" to all their dues; fear to
" whom fear; honour to whom
" honour.
" Honour all men; love the
" brother-

" brotherhood; fear God; ho-
" nour the king."

Q. *What ſaith the ſcripture concerning anger?*

A. " Be not haſty in thy
" ſpirit to be angry, for an-
" ger reſteth in the boſom of
" fools.

" But he that is ſlow to
" wrath is of great underſtand-
" ing."

Q. *Then ought not Chriſtians to put away anger?*

A. Yes: " Let all bitter-
" neſs, and wrath, and anger,
" and clamour, and evil-ſpeak-
" ing, be put away from you,
" with all malice.

" For where envying and
" ſtrife

" ſtrife is, there is confuſion,
" and every evil work."

" From whence come wars
" and fightings? Come they
" not hence," (ſaith the apo-
" ſtle) even of your luſts, which
" war in your members?"

Chriſt commands, " Not to
" reſiſt evil; but whoſoever
" will ſmite thee on the right
" cheek, to turn the other
" alſo."

Q. *Will God's children tell lies?*

A. No: " Surely they are
" my people, children that will
" not lie; ſo he was their
" Saviour.

" Wherefore putting away
" lying, ſpeak every man truth
" with

" with his neighbour, for we
" are members one of another."

Q. *Who is the father of a lie?*

A. The devil: " When he
" ſpeaketh a lie, he ſpeaketh
" of his own; for he is a liar,
" and the father of it."

Q. *Is it lawful to ſwear now in this goſpel diſpenſation?*

A. No: our bleſſed Lord ſaith, " Swear not at all; nei-
" ther by heaven, for it is God's
" throne; nor by the earth,
" for it is his footſtool."

And the apoſtle James ſaith, " But above all things, my
" brethren, ſwear not; nei-
" ther by heaven, neither by
" earth, neither by any other
" oath;

" oath; but let your yea be yea,
" and your nay, nay, leſt you
" fall into condemnation ?"

Q. *Is it not beſt for Chriſtians to keep to a ſimplicity and plainneſs of ſpeech as well as apparel?*

A. Yes; for the words *Ye* and *You* were firſt applied to worldly great men, to gratify their pride and vain glory; and the words *Thou* and *Thee* are the only proper addreſs to a ſingle perſon, and always made uſe of in the holy ſcriptures.

Q. *Should not Chriſtians avoid uſing the names and titles by which the Heathens diſtinguiſhed their days and months?*

A. Yes. As the names were given by ſuch who worſhipped idols,

idols, in honour of their pretended deities, we ought to decline the uſe of theſe names, and to diſtinguiſh the days and months by their numerical order only.

It was commanded to the children of Iſrael, the people whom God choſe to place his name among, that they ſhould not only abſtain from the idolatrous practices of the nations: but make no "mention of the "names of other gods, neither "let it be heard out of their "mouths."

Q. *Are not Chriſt's miniſters to preach the goſpel without any views of outward gain?*

A. Yes. He ſaid to his diſciples,

ciples, "As ye go, preach, ſay-
"ing, The kingdom of heaven
"is at hand; freely ye have
"received, freely give."

The apoſtle ſaith "I have
"coveted no man's ſilver or
"gold, or apparel; but theſe
"hands have miniſtered unto
"my neceſſities, and to thoſe
"that were with me."

Q. *What is the true and ſaving baptiſm of a Chriſtian?*

A. The waſhing, or cleanſing, of the ſoul from the corruptions and pollutions of ſin.

"Even baptiſm doth alſo
"now ſave us," (ſays Peter)
"not the putting away of the
"filth of the fleſh, but the
"anſwer of a good conſcience
"towards

" towards God, by the reſur-
" rection of Jeſus Chriſt."

Q. *What is the Lord's ſupper?*

A. The ſoul's partaking of the bread which comes down from heaven, and the wine of the kingdom, which Chriſt our Lord gives to thoſe ſouls who hunger and thirſt after righteouſneſs.

Q. *What are the effects of this heavenly ſupper?*

A. The ſtrengthening and refreſhing our ſouls by the body and blood of Chriſt, ſpiritually received.

" Whoſoever eateth my fleſh,
" and drinketh my blood, hath
" eternal

" eternal life, and I will raiſe
" him up at the laſt day."

Q. *What followeth after death?*

A. " It is appointed unto
" men once to die, but after
" this the judgment."

Q. *Is the death of the body a loſs or terror to a good Chriſtian?*

A. No: " For to live is
" Chriſt, and to die is gain.

" Precious in the ſight of the
" Lord, is the death of his
" ſaints.

" The righteous hath hope
" in his death."

Q. *What ſhall they receive who are ſanctified through faith?*

A. " A

A. "A crown of glory, in-
"corruptible, which fadeth not
"away.

"An inheritance amongſt
"the ſaints in light, with ful-
"neſs of joy, in the preſence
"of God, angels, and ſpirits of
"juſt men made perfect."

Q. *What ſhall be the portion of the wicked?*

A. An eternal ſeparation from God, and the ſpirits of the juſt, to be puniſhed with hell torments.

"Who ſhall be puniſhed
"with everlaſting deſtruction
"from the preſence of the Lord,
"and from the glory of his
"power."

Chriſt

Chriſt ſaid to ſuch who ſhould die in their ſins "Whi-
"ther I go, ye cannot come."

THE

THE

Ten Commandments.

EXODUS XX.

And God ſpake all theſe words, ſaying, I am the Lord thy God, who have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the houſe of bondage.

I. Thou ſhalt have no other gods before me.

II. Thou ſhalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeneſs of any thing that is

is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou ſhalt not bow down thyſelf to them, nor ſerve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, viſiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me: and ſhewing mercy unto thouſands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

III. Thou ſhalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltleſs that taketh his name in vain.

IV. Re-

IV. Remember the ſabbath-day to keep it holy: ſix days ſhalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the ſeventh day is the ſabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou ſhalt not do any work, thou, nor thy ſon, nor thy daughter, thy man-ſervant, nor thy maid-ſervant, nor thy cattle, nor thy ſtranger, that is within thy gates; for in ſix days the Lord made heaven and earth, the ſea, and all that in them is, and reſted the ſeventh day; wherefore the Lord bleſſed the ſabbath-day, and hallowed it.

V. Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be

be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI. Thou ſhalt not kill.

VII. Thou ſhalt not commit adultery.

VIII. Thou ſhalt not ſteal.

IX. Thou ſhalt not bear falſe witneſs againſt thy neighbour.

X. Thou ſhalt not covet thy neighbour's houſe, thou ſhalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-ſervant, nor his maid-ſervant, nor his ox, nor his aſs, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

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